

What is claimed is:

1. A polymer blend adapted to replace unblended EPDM, said polymer blend comprising:
  - a high molecular weight EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+8) at 150°C) of from about 20 to about 40;
  - a conjugated diene rubber; and
  - a low molecular weight EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+4) at 125°C) of from about 13 to about 27.
2. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said conjugated diene rubber is a styrene-butadiene rubber.
3. The polymer blend of claim 2, wherein said styrene-butadiene rubber has a styrene content of about 15% to about 35% by weight.
4. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said polymer blend comprises about 60 phr to about 120 phr of said high molecular weight EPDM rubber, about 10 phr to about 40 phr of said conjugated diene rubber and about 25 phr to about 45 phr of said low molecular weight EPDM rubber.
5. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said high molecular weight EPDM rubber is an oil-extended EPDM rubber.
6. The polymer blend of claim 5, wherein said high molecular weight EPDM rubber has an ethylene content of about 58% to about 68% by weight of EPDM, a diene content of about 8.0% to about 11.5% by weight of EPDM and an oil content of about 45% to about 55% by total weight of the rubber.
7. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said low molecular weight EPDM rubber has an ethylene content of about 75% to about 85% by weight, a diene content of about 5% to about 10% by weight and a bimodal molecular weight distribution.

8. The polymer blend of claim 6, wherein oil comprises from about 40% to about 60% by weight of the oil-extended EPDM.
9. The polymer blend of claim 1, further comprising about 120 phr to about 200 phr of a carbon black.
10. The polymer blend of claim 9, further comprising about 70 phr to about 120 phr of a paraffinic or naphthenic oil.
11. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said polymer blend possesses cure properties such that it exhibits a vulcanization time ( $t_{90}$ ) of about 2.2 minutes or less when exposed to a temperature of 177°C.
12. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said polymer blend possesses a tensile strength of greater than 8.0 MPa and a compression set less than about 20% after vulcanization.
13. The polymer blend of claim 1, wherein said blend further comprises a cure system comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of sulfur and a sulfur donor in a concentration of about 1 phr to about 5 phr and at least one vulcanization accelerator in a concentration of about 1 to about 5 phr.
14. The polymer blend according to claim 13, wherein said cure system comprises a combination of sulfur/tetramethylthiuram disulfide/dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide/zinc dibutyldithiocarbamate/2-mercaptobenzothiazolate disulfide/N-t-butylbenzothiazole-2-sulfanimide in a phr concentration of about 1.7/0.5/1.0/0.2/2.0/1.5.
15. A polymer blend comprising:  
an oil extended high molecular weight EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+8) at 150°C) of from about 20 to about 40, an ethylene content of about 58% to about 68% by weight of EPDM, a diene

content of about 8.0% to about 11.5% by weight of EPDM and an oil content of about 45% to about 55% by total weight of said rubber;

a styrene-butadiene rubber;

a low molecular weight EPDM rubber having a Mooney viscosity (ML (1+4) at 125°C) of from about 13 to about 27, an ethylene content of about 75% to about 85% by weight, a diene content of about 5% to about 10% by weight and a bimodal molecular weight distribution;

about 120 to about 200 phr carbon black;

about 70 to about 100 phr oil; and

a cure system comprising a combination of sulfur/tetramethylthiuram disulfide/dipentamethylenethiuram tetrasulfide/zinc dibutyldithiocarbamate/2-mercaptobenzothiazolate disulfide/N-t-butylbenzothiazole-2-sulfanamide in a phr concentration of about 1.7/0.5/1.0/0.2/2.0/1.5.

16. A polymer blend according to claim 15, wherein said blend contains about 90 phr of said oil extended high molecular weight EPDM, about 35 phr of said styrene-butadiene rubber, about 35 phr of said low molecular weight EPDM, about 160 phr of said carbon black and about 80 phr of said oil.